

RABIES POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS

DISEASE REPORTING

In Washington

New requirements for the reporting of rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) were instituted in December of 2000. In the first year of reporting, DOH received 148 reports.

Purpose of reporting and surveillance

- To assess the risk of rabies exposure in persons bitten or otherwise exposed to animal saliva, determine the need for PEP, and to provide counseling to those who don't require PEP.
- To facilitate the capture and confinement of potentially rabid animals (involved in a human exposure) with a defined observation period (dogs, cats, and ferrets); or facilitate histological examination of the brain of potentially rabid animals (involved in a human exposure) when those animals cannot be observed. This may involve coordination with other agencies, e.g., the Humane Society, animal control, and local law enforcement.

Reporting requirements

- Health care providers: notifiable to Local Health Jurisdiction within 3 work days
- Hospitals: notifiable to Local Health Jurisdiction within 3 work days
- Laboratories: no requirements for reporting
- Local health jurisdictions: notifiable to DOH Communicable Disease Epidemiology within 7 days of case investigation completion or summary information required within 21 days

CASE DEFINITION FOR SURVEILLANCE

Clinical criteria for diagnosis

Receipt of human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) and/or rabies vaccine (Human Diploid Cell vaccine [HCDV]; Rabies Vaccine Adsorbed, IM; or Purified Chick Embryo Cell Culture Vaccine [PCEC]), following presumed exposure to a rabid or potentially rabid animal.

Case definition

Meets the clinical case definition.

ALGORITHM FOR RABIES POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PEP) IN WASHINGTON STATE

